

DOUBLE BRIDGE AND SQUEEZE SLOT

Warning: Hiking in and around these slots can be more dangerous than it may appear, because of the narrowness of the slot canyons and the slipperiness of the terrain above the slots. As a standard safety precaution, please do not attempt this hike alone, and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

In exploring this area, a hiker must be very careful not to get stuck in one of the slots. The slots are narrow enough in many places that turning around can be difficult, if not impossible. For example, a hiker could fall into a part of the slot that is too tight for the hiker to get out of. Or, a hiker could slip on the talus slopes above one of the slots, fall into the slot, and become so injured by the fall that the hiker is unable to navigate out of the extremely narrow slot canyon. Therefore, please stay far away from the edge of the slots if hiking above them. Also, please stay away from the area above a slot canyon when other hikers are exploring the slot from below, because there are rocks above the slot which could easily be dislodged and would then fall into the slot, causing extreme danger to those hiking in the slot.

Additionally, please use care in hiking through the slots so as not to cause unnatural erosion which would then cause the slots to become less narrow. Please, do not force your way through the slots, as you may get stuck (like Winnie-the-Pooh) as well as cause damage to the slot. Because of the extreme narrowness of both slots, a hiker could cause unnatural erosion to occur in the slot by trying to get through a spot which is too narrow for the hiker to naturally fit. Also, since the slots are made out of conglomerate rock, severe damage could be done to the slot by attempting to climb up and out of the slot or by "stemming" through some sections of the slot (not to mention the dangers of falling while climbing in the slot!).

For more information on this hike, please see Steve Hall's detailed trip report, located at <http://www.panamintcity.com/funeral/doublebridge.html>. Steve and Tobin discovered Double Bridge on January 1, 2016, and we were fortunate to have the opportunity to hike out to Double Bridge with them on January 5th. Also on January 5th, we continued beyond the slot canyon in which Double Bridge is located and did a bit more exploring in the area. This is when Squeeze Slot was discovered, from Steve's Google Earth research which was completed before the trip. I had not expected to encounter any narrow slots in this area, so it was a nice surprise for me when Steve led our hiking group to this slot. What follows are my photos from this hike:

The lighting was good that morning for taking photos looking towards Tucki Mountain:



From the road, it doesn't appear that there would be any slots up in this area:



However, as we began to hike further up the main wash, the terrain began to look more promising for narrows:



This was an interesting formation/arch that we spotted before dropping back into the main wash from the ridge:



Looking down-canyon from here:



Looking up-canyon. Already the terrain looked more interesting here than I would have expected it to be, and it was about to get a lot nicer:



There were numerous interesting-looking side canyons coming off of the main canyon; from Google Earth none of them appear to have spectacular narrows or slots:



However, I checked out some of the interesting-looking ones briefly:



Continuing up-canyon, the walls are starting to get a bit taller:



Looking over at another side-canyon, this one with a rock somehow balanced at the top of the entrance:



Up ahead, the canyon cuts past a massive conglomerate rock wall:



Looking over at another side-canyon joining the main wash:



This one I also checked out, but it soon daylighted after a couple of narrow turns:



Up ahead and to the left is the entrance to Double Bridge Slot:



There were some nice hoodoos on the canyon walls through here:



Approaching the entrance to the slot:



At this point, the canyon clearly looked like it was going to be very interesting—and from what I'd heard about Double Bridge Slot, I knew that I wasn't going to be at all disappointed:



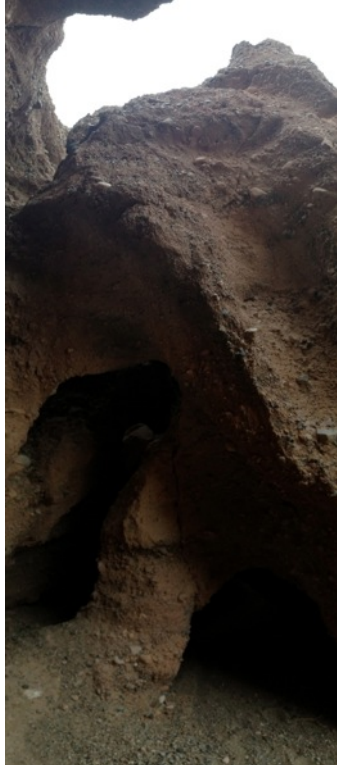
It seems to me that this slot is well-enough hidden that, as with many other slot canyons in Death Valley, it would be hard to find without the aid of aerial imagery:



Immediately inside the entrance to the slot is Double Bridge, currently the only known double natural bridge formation in Death Valley National Park:



I tried to get a panorama showing how tall this slot canyon is here, but it was difficult given how dark the canyon is:



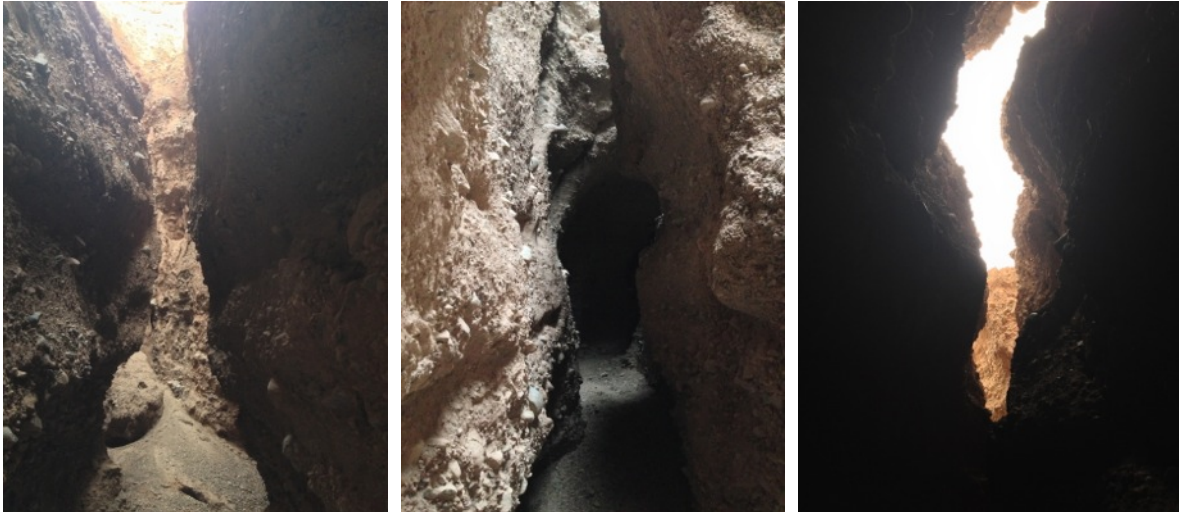
Notice how the water coming down this slot canyon probably first went around to the far left in this photo, then cut through the left opening (middle of photo), and finally cut through the far right opening:

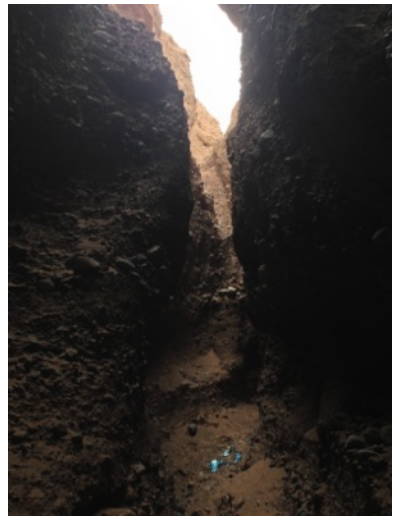
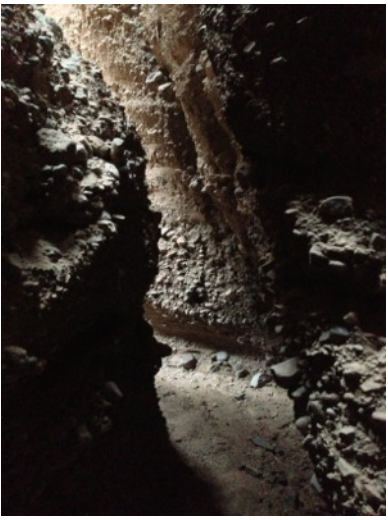


After taking photos of the bridge, we continued up the slot canyon; this photo is of the view looking up and out of the slot:



The next photos show our hike up the deepest and narrowest portion of Double Bridge Slot:





There is this conglomerate boulder wedged in the slot which one can either carefully climb over or crawl underneath:



This slot canyon reminded me a lot of Peekaboo Slot in the Grand Staircase–Escalante area; and Squeeze Slot, which we hiked later in the day, reminded me of Spooky Slot, which, surprisingly, is near Peekaboo Slot:



Finally, the canyon walls began to get less tall and we could get a view looking back down the slot:



These three photos show the left fork of the upper slot, as it begins to get less tall (the iPhone HDR app was a bit optimistic about the weather, as the sky wasn't really that blue):



Looking up-canyon after exiting this slot:



View back down-canyon towards the slot; had I been hiking down this canyon wash, I wouldn't have expected to find a slot just up ahead:



There were lots of these flowers blooming in this wash; I think this is a Brown Eyed Evening Primrose (probably so photogenic this morning only because of the overcast skies):



The canyon we were hiking in soon reached a ridge, and we were able to look down into the next canyon north of the one we'd previously been hiking in:



We headed up the ridge, then found a safe place to descend into the wash; this is the view looking down-canyon and back at where we'd just been standing:



There were more flowers in the wash here than I'd been expecting to see. This is a Notch-Leaf Phacelia:



Continuing up this canyon:



There is an interesting hoodoo to the right on the canyon wall up ahead:



We then followed this slot which takes off from the left side of the canyon:



An interesting formation spotted on the canyon wall:



This is a nice side canyon, but it's not particularly deep or narrow:



We gained the ridge near the end of this canyon; view looking over towards Tucki:



Panorama towards the Death Valley Buttes:



Looking back over towards the main canyon from here:



This is the side-canyon that we'd be following back down to the main canyon:



This side canyon was very similar in form to the canyon we'd just been in:



The canyon wash was relatively flat, which made for nice hiking:



Another interesting formation spotted on the canyon wall:



The next seven photos show our progress back to the main canyon, and then up-canyon towards the next potential slot we'd be checking out. This is certainly a great area to explore for a short day-hike:



This is the start of the next potential slot that we'd be exploring:



Off to the right once in this side canyon is a short but narrow side canyon; the walls are just tall enough that a hiker can't see out of the narrows:

